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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

NFIB-13.1/99
28 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Status of NIE 11-3/8-81: SOVIET CAPABILITIES FOR STRATEGIC
NUCLEAR CONFLICT

1. In response to inquiries from members of the Board, I would like to discuss the reasons for the delay in publication of NIE 11-3/8-81 and summarize its present status. ☐

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2. As you may recall, production of NIE 11-3/8-81 was delayed primarily by preparation of Special NIE ☐

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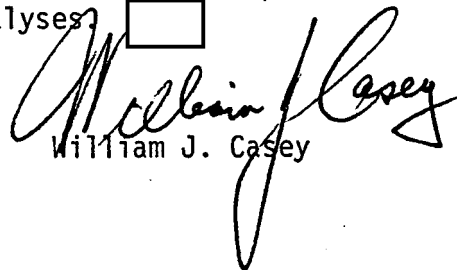
☐ After publication of the SNIE, we notified NFIB representatives in late October that publication of the NIE would be delayed until early-to-mid February 1982. Subsequent to that notification, substantial revisions in the scope and substance of the NIE resulted in a further delay; however, we expect to be able to forward the Estimate to you for approval in late February. Most of the important material in the Estimate has been completed. The force projections for offensive forces and their characteristics have been coordinated and will be distributed shortly. The four draft chapters have completed the first round of coordination and, with a few exceptions, are close to the final product. Your representative to NIE 11-3/8 has been working closely with the National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs and is able to provide information from these draft chapters to satisfy particular consumer needs. ☐

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3. I feel it is important that the Estimate be responsive to the concerns of this Administration for our nation's strategic force needs, and that the additional time needed to change many aspects of the Estimate and to attempt to meet these concerns has been beneficial. It should provide important new insights into Soviet views of nuclear war and their capabilities, and lead to some important new intelligence analyses. ☐

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William J. Casey

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